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NORTH CAROLINA



Cooperative Crop Reporting Service

No. 151

RALEIGH, N. C.

JANUARY 15, 1954

GENERAL CROP SITUATION

Small grains have made some response to the improved moisture condition but seeding and germination were much delayed by dry soils during the fall months. Seeded acreage is now germinated but many fields have made little growth to date. Condition of grains is reported as only poor to fair in most Piedmont counties and fair to good elsewhere. Some damage from cold weather is reported in the mountain areas.

Rains came too late to help permanent pastures in the drought stricken Piedmont counties where condition is reported as generally poor. Supplies of roughage and grain are also inadequate in these areas, although the emergency drought program is helping to alleviate the condition in the areas most seriously affected.

(Continued on page 5)

Acreage and Value of 1953 Crops Below 1952

The harvested acreage of crops in North Carolina in 1953 totaled 6,757,000 acres. This is 113,000 acres less than the total of 6,870,000 acres harvested in 1952. Most of the decrease in harvested acreage in 1953, as compared to 1952, was accounted for by five major crops. There were 44,000 less acres of corn harvested in 1953 than in 1952; tobacco accounted for 62,000 acres; soybeans 42,000 acres; peanuts 23,000 acres and all hay crops 32,000 acres.

(Continued on page 5)

NORTH CAROLINA FARMERS NOW REPORTING 1953 FARM CENSUS INFORMATION

Owners of tracts of land of 3 acres or more should furnish the following information to the appropriate Tax Lister:

1. LAND USE IN 1953
 - (a) Acres harvested cropland.
 - (b) Acres idle cropland.
 - (c) Pasture land.
 - (d) All other land.
2. Acres of each crop harvested during calendar year 1953.
3. Tons commercial fertilizer used in 1953.
4. Sows and gilts for farrowing between December 1, 1953 and June 1, 1954.
5. Cows and heifers two years old and over on land January 1, 1954.
6. Number hens and pullets of laying age on land January 1, 1954.
7. Number of wood fired flue-cured tobacco barns operated in 1953.
8. Number tractor drawn or mounted dusting & spraying units on land January 1, 1954.

The purpose of the Farm Census is to obtain reliable information on land use, crop acreages and selected livestock numbers. Information of this type is needed currently in order to plan and carry out the most practical agricultural programs for North Carolina. Changes in the production of crops and livestock brought about by National Legislation and general economic conditions must be based on current and reliable information in order to use our farm resources efficiently and to protect the welfare of Tar Heel farmers. Farmers, individually or collectively, cannot wisely plan for the future without using and studying all available facts pertaining to agriculture in the same way as efficient business men analyze their operations.



FARMER'S SHARE OF YOUR FOOD DOLLAR



FOR He Gets:

POULTRY & EGGS



MEAT



DAIRY PRODS.



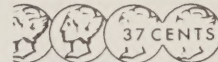
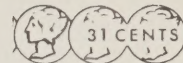
FRUITS & VEG.



GRAIN PRODS.*



Marketing System Gets:



DATA FOR 2D QUARTER 1953

* BAKERY AND CEREAL PRODUCTS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

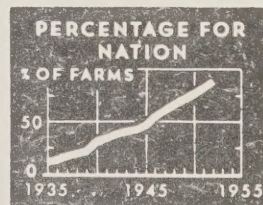
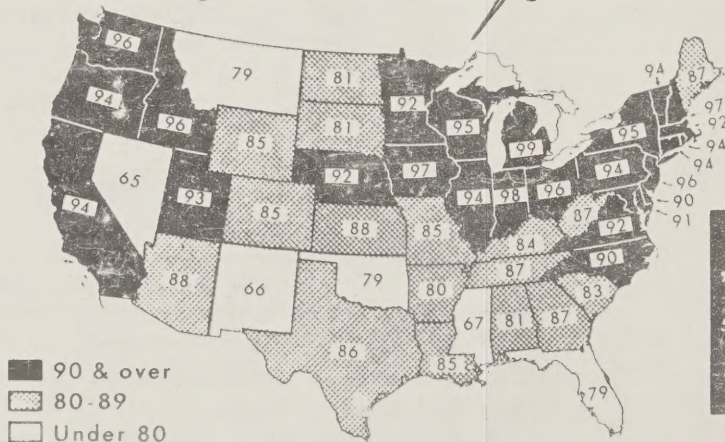
NEG. 49308-XX BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Farmers received an average of 45 cents out of each dollar that urban consumers spent for farm food products in 1953. The remaining 55 cents went to pay the marketing charges made after the products left the hands of farmers. The share of the retail price received by farmers varies widely by commodities

and commodity groups. For bread and other bakery products, the costs of baking and other processing greatly exceed the payment received by farmers for the grain in these products. Costs of transportation are high for some perishable fruits and vegetables that are often shipped long distances to market.

FARMS and ELECTRICITY

Percentage of Farms Receiving Central Station Service



U. S. AND STATE DATA ARE OFFICIAL REA ESTIMATES AS OF JUNE 30, 1952

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 49347-XX BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

More than 88 percent of all farms in the United States have central station electric service. A large portion of the farms still without service are located in the South and in the sparsely populated areas of the West. Unelectrified farms in the West are unserved primarily because of physical obstacles—long

distances to those farms from existing lines or mountainous terrain. Unelectrified farms in the South are unserved, even though lines may be close by, primarily because of economic characteristics of those farms—low income farms and a relatively high degree of mobility among the rural people.

Supplies of wheat the world over are generally abundant. The world crop is about 7 billion bushels, 3 percent less than a year earlier but about a fifth above the 1945-49 average.

Winter wheat growers in the U. S. appear to have responded to the acreage allotment program by seeding only about 4 acres of winter wheat for every 5 acres seeded a year earlier.

A total of nearly 340½ million acres were harvested in the U. S. in 1953. This is less than in 1952 or any of the 7 years, 1943-49.

NORTH CAROLINA WHEAT, OATS AND CORN ON FARM STOCKS ABOVE LAST YEAR

Wheat stocks on North Carolina farms, as of January 1, were 9.4 percent larger than on January 1, 1953. On farm stocks of oats and corn were 58.6 and 8.3 percent, respectively, larger than a year earlier. Soybean stocks on farms were 35.8 percent below last year, while hay stocks were down 12.5 percent.

Smaller hay stocks are the result of a relatively short crop last year and increased feeding requirements to offset loss of roughage from drouth stricken pastures last summer and fall.

N. C. EGG PRODUCTION IN 1953 SETS NEW RECORD

Rate of Lay Increased

Due to slightly greater average number of layers throughout the past year and increased rates of lay, the North Carolina output of eggs during 1953 was the highest of record. Total annual production is estimated at 1,388 million eggs -- 7 percent above the previous high of 1,298 million eggs recorded during 1952. Demand for both market and hatching eggs remained good throughout the year, with supplies of hatching eggs insufficient for the demand during some summer months. The December 1953 production is placed at 94 million eggs, the same as produced during December of the previous year.

An estimated monthly average of 9,257,000 layers were on North Carolina farms during January 1953. This dropped seasonally to 7,638,000 layers during July, and was back up to 9,250,000 head during December 1953. This compares with a monthly average of 8,992,000 layers on N. C. farms during January 1952.

The monthly rate of lay per 100 hens for December is estimated at 1,017 eggs -- the same rate as recorded for December 1952. However, the rate of lay was greater in nine months of 1953 than in the same months of 1952. This fact along with somewhat large numbers of layers on farms resulted in the record total egg production achieved during 1953.

JANUARY 1, 1954 FARM STOCKS OF GRAINS, SOYBEANS AND HAY

Crop	North Carolina			United States		
	Average 1943-52	1953	1954	Average 1943-52	1953	1954
Thousand Bushels						
Corn.....	42,436	31,441	34,066	2,042,366	2,154,757	2,138,464
Wheat.....	2,126	2,399	2,624	378,186	401,110	424,057
Oats.....	3,474	3,551	5,633	830,405	786,560	778,541
Sorghum Grain	-	-	-	57,585 1/2	23,803	36,244
Soybeans.....	1,384	1,184	763	66,301	83,621	79,785
Hay *.....	843	836	733	70,088	68,126	69,496

* Hay stocks in thousand tons.

1/ Short-time average.

WEATHER SUMMARY

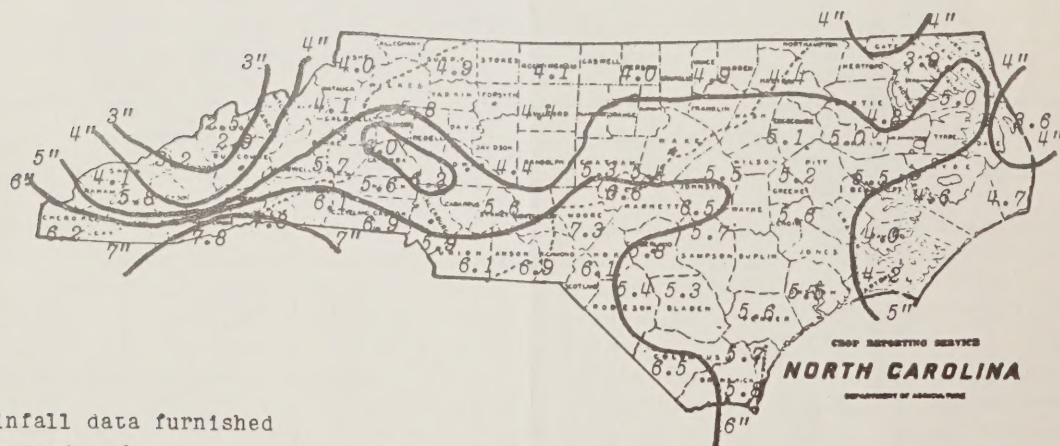
December brought some very cold weather to North Carolina on the 17th and 18th days, but for the month temperatures averaged just about seasonable for the State as a whole. And while rainfall at most places was above normal, sunshine was in evidence about half of the daylight hours. This sunshine, just about the amount usually expected during the month, was recorded during an average of 11 clear days and 6 days with some cloudiness; there were 14 cloudy days. An intense storm which dominated the weather on the 12th, 13th and 14th was the cause of a great deal of wind in addition to general rains. Wind speeds of 30 - 40 mph in gusts were common on the 14th, and a top velocity of 47 mph was observed at Wilmington.

Snow fell on the mountains on the 10th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th and 25th. At Asheville, the total for the month was 0.5 inch, with the largest amount falling on any one day, the 16th, being 0.4 inch. On the 25th a trace of snow was reported as far east as Raleigh and as far south as Charlotte. It was a wet month over the greater part of State, with many places getting from 1-2 inches in excess of the amount usually expected. However, rainfall was almost $\frac{1}{2}$ inch below normal along the outer banks

and in the mountains. In portions of the Piedmont, it was the wettest month since August, 1952 and the wettest December since 1945. Although precipitation was deficient in the mountains, about 90% of normal, several rains during the first half of the month gave considerable relief from the fall drought. During the month of December there are usually about 10 days with measurable rain. During this past December, the number of rainy days was about as expected in the mountains while the eastern two-thirds of the State had an additional 2-3 days of rain.

Temperatures averaged from 1 degree below normal in the mountains to 1 degree above normal in the eastern half of the State. Actually temperatures were near or above seasonable levels the greater part of the month except for cold spells on the 24th - 25th and from the 17th through the 19th. A southward surge of arctic air from Canada made for very cold record-breaking weather on the 17th and 18th, with afternoon temperatures on both days rising no higher than the 30's. Lowest temperatures on those dates were correspondingly cold, in the teens at most places and lower in the mountains.

NORTH CAROLINA - INCHES OF RAINFALL, DECEMBER 1953



Rainfall data furnished
By Dept. of Commerce
Weather Bureau, Raleigh

Charles B. Carney
Meteorologist

GENERAL SITUATION (Continued)

The end of the year found practically all of the 1953 crops completely harvested, although there are occasional fields of cotton still awaiting final harvest, and a few fields of corn have not yet been picked.

Acreage and Value of Crops (Continued)

The total harvested acreage of nine crops in 1953 exceeded 1952 by 108,000 acres. The harvested oats acreage in 1953 exceeded 1952 by 45,000 acres; cotton accounted for 30,000 acres; sorghum grain 16,000 acres; Irish potatoes 4,000 acres and sweetpotatoes 7,000 acres.

The harvested acreage of commercial vegetables increased from 71,400 acres in 1952 to 79,080 acres in 1953.

The value of all crops harvested in North Carolina during 1953 amounted to 785 million dollars. This is 71 million dollars or 8 percent below the 856 million dollar value of crops in 1952. The value of production of corn, wheat, cotton, cottonseed, tobacco, Irish potatoes, soybeans and peanuts was less in 1953 than in 1952.

Tobacco, corn and cotton accounted for 81 percent of the 785 million dollar valuation placed on all crops produced in the State during 1953. Tobacco represented 58 percent, corn 12 percent and cotton 11 percent.

U. S. crop production in 1953 was virtually equal to the second-largest total produced in 1952, despite a severe drought in a large part of the country. Yields per acre, in the aggregate, were record high in 1953.

The supply of cotton in the United States for the 1953-54 season is estimated at 21.9 million bales and disappearance at about 12.3 million. This would leave a carryover on August 1, 1954 of about 9.6 million bales, compared with 5.5 million a year earlier. Export of cotton during the current season is expected to increase moderately above the 3,048,000 bales exported in 1952-53.

A Look Ahead for Agriculture in 1954

Prices farmers receive for their products in 1954 are expected to average close to 1953 prices. This is the consensus of economists in the Agricultural Marketing Service, after a careful analysis of business conditions, expected trends in employment and income and purchasing power, together with prospective supplies of agricultural products.

No marked change in the domestic demand for food and other agricultural products appears likely in 1954 as compared with 1953. Also, foreign takings of farm products, while sharply reduced in the 1952-53 marketing season from other recent years, are expected to continue at about present levels over the next year or so.

Supplies of most farm products are expected to continue large in 1954. Carry-over stocks may increase further at the end of the current marketing year, but a large part will be held by the Government, under the price support programs.

Acreage restrictions will bring smaller wheat and cotton crops; and price supports for these and several other commodities will continue to cushion the impact of large supplies on farm prices. Price supports for wheat, corn, cotton, peanuts, some types of tobacco and rice will continue at 90 percent of parity for 1954 crops since marketing quotas for individual crops were approved by growers. The support levels for oats, barley, rye, and grain sorghums will be continued at 85 percent of parity. But because of lower parity prices, support prices will be a little lower for each crop except rye, which will be the same. The price support for flaxseed will be at 70 percent of the mid-September parity price, compared with 80 percent of parity for the 1953 crop. Support levels for other commodities have not yet been announced.

Unless drought next year forces liquidation of herds, cattle prices may continue relatively stable, close to current levels. Current indications suggest that marketings of hogs in 1954 are not likely to be increased until the second half of the year. Price prospects for hogs are fairly favorable, at least through the first half of 1954.

(Continued on page 8)

NORTH CAROLINA PROSPECTIVE COMMERCIAL POTATO ACREAGE RECORD LOW

Early Commercial Potatoes for Late Spring Harvest Down 22 Percent

Early commercial potato plantings are expected to total 15,000 acres in North Carolina this year. This figure would place the 1954 plantings 23 percent below the 1953 harvest of 19,500 acres and 47 percent below the 1943-52 average. If growers intentions are carried out, this year's acreage will be the lowest of record for the State.

Prospective acreage of commercial potatoes in the 12 late-spring States is placed at 128,800 acres. This indicated acreage is 22 percent less than the 165,400 acres harvested in 1953. Reductions from last year are expected in all of the late spring States except Texas and Arizona where increases of 200 and 800 acres, respectively, are indicated. In both California and Alabama, plantings are expected to be down 25 percent from the 1953 acreage. In South Carolina a reduction of 22 percent is indicated.

The winter crop of early commercial

potatoes is estimated at 3,023,000 bushels - 25 percent less than last year's record output of 4,021,000 bushels. In Florida, acreage is down substantially from last year but the average yield per acre is indicated to be nearly equal to the relatively high average yield harvested last year. Digging has started in the Everglades, and is expected to get underway in the Fort Myers area about mid-January. In Dade County, excessive rains have retarded growth in some fields but no serious damage has occurred. Dade County will start shipping about the first of February, but the bulk of the movement from that section will occur in March. In Texas, growth of winter potatoes was virtually terminated by frost in most fields on the morning of December 26. Harvesting of the Texas crop, which accounts for only about 1 percent of the total winter output, will be practically completed by mid-January.

COMMERCIAL EARLY IRISH POTATOES INTENDED PLANTINGS FOR 1954 WITH COMPARISONS

State	Acreage			Intended Acres as Percent Of 1953	Yield Per Acre	
	10-Year Average 1943-52 ^{1/}	1953	1954 Intended		10-Year Average 1943-52 ^{1/}	1953
Late Spring	<i>Acres</i>			<i>Percent</i>	<i>Bushels</i>	
N. Carolina.	28,400	19,500	15,000	77	189	190
California.	66,200	84,000	63,000	75	395	390
Louisiana..	14,150	6,000	5,000	83	70	110
Mississippi	2,500	600	600	100	86	90
Alabama....	20,920	31,800	23,800	75	134	180
Georgia....	1,560	900	600	67	122	95
S. Carolina.	10,350	9,000	7,000	78	148	155
Arizona....	3,980 ^{2/}	5,200	6,000	115	362 ^{2/}	440
Texas.....	5,780	3,800	4,000	105	71	65
Oklahoma...	1,840	900	800	89	116	100
Arkansas...	4,410	1,700	1,400	82	88	55
Tennessee..	4,240	2,000	1,600	80	114	115
Group Total	163,920	165,400	128,800	78	250	286

^{1/} For group totals and for all States, averages of annual totals, not the sum of the State or Group averages.

^{2/} Arizona -- 9-year average, 1944-52.

RECORD MILK PRODUCTION

Production of milk on North Carolina farms totaled 136 million pounds during December, the highest production of record for the month. The December output is 9 percent more than the revised production for the same month a year ago and surpasses the December 1951 figure (121 million pounds) by 12 percent.

Milk production on farms in the United States during December 1953 totaled 8,791 million pounds, 5 percent more than the same month of 1952, and the largest December production on record by a considerable margin. Mild weather in important dairy areas, liberal supplemental feeding, continued improvement of inherent producing capacity of milk cows, and added emphasis by farmers toward increasing off-season milk output all contributed to the heavy December flow.

Total milk production in the U. S. during 1953, as indicated by current monthly estimates, was 120.2 billion pounds, 4 percent more than in 1952, and slightly above the previous high annual output of 119.8 billion pounds in 1945.

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FARM REAL ESTATE MARKET

Prices Decline 3 Percent

The decline in land values, first apparent during the spring and summer of 1953, continued during the 4 months ending November 1. Declines of 2 percent or more occurred in all but 3 States, and 10 States had declines of 5 percent or more. The national index of average value per acre for November was 121 (1947-49 = 100), 3 percent below July and 6 percent below a year earlier.

Declines during the latest 4-months period were sharpest in the area from Kentucky and Tennessee westward to Utah. This area includes most of the States where drought was the major factor in reducing farm income. Elsewhere, the declines were more moderate and stemmed largely from the general down-turn in prices of farm commodities since August, 1952.

(See table below)

FARM REAL ESTATE INDEX NUMBERS OF AVERAGE VALUE
PER ACRE, SOUTH ATLANTIC STATES, NOVEMBER 1953
WITH COMPARISONS 1/
(1947-49 = 100)

State and Division	1920	1930	1940	1950	1951	1952		1953		
						March	Nov.	March	July	Nov. <u>2/</u>
N. Carolina...	69	49	43	106	117	132	136	138	136	133
Delaware.....	86	69	55	98	106	121	122	123	124	123
Maryland.....	82	61	50	99	109	125	125	126	127	125
Virginia.....	81	58	48	101	115	129	133	134	135	129
W. Virginia...	105	71	58	95	105	112	114	113	112	109
S. Carolina...	110	50	43	97	108	117	118	119	118	114
Georgia.....	119	55	45	99	109	123	127	129	129	124
Florida.....	76	74	57	97	109	120	122	123	122	118
S. Atlantic...	89	57	48	101	112	125	128	129	128	125
United States.	105	70	50	102	117	128	129	127 <u>3/</u>	125 <u>3/</u>	121

1/ All farm lands with improvements as of March 1, except as indicated.

2/ Figures for November 1953 are preliminary.

3/ Revised.

FARM REPORT

Compiled by authority of the
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service
Agricultural Estimates Division

S. R. Newell, Director
and published by the
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A Look Ahead (Continued)

Farmers' production costs were reduced slightly in 1953 and may decline further in 1954. Prices paid by farmers including interest, taxes, and wage rates held relatively stable in the first 9 months of 1953, but at levels about 3 percent below 1952. Most of the decline from last year was due to lower prices for feeder livestock and feed. Prices of these major items are not likely to change much from current reduced levels. Prices of fertilizer and other industrial products purchased by farmers have stabilized in recent months and probably will change very little in 1954. Price concessions, however, are likely to be more general than in 1953, especially for those commodities produced primarily for the farm market. Wage payments will continue high and interest charges and taxes are expected to be moderately higher.

During the past year the greater decline in prices received than in prices paid by farmers dropped the parity ratio to 91 in

mid-October compared with 99 a year earlier and 113 in February 1951 when prices received were at a peak. This decline in the parity ratio means, of course, that farmers' prices received are relatively less favorable as compared with prices of goods and service which the farmers buy and is often referred to as the "cost-price squeeze." Prospective trends in prices received and paid by farmers in 1954 do not indicate that the price-cost position of agriculture will change much in the coming year.

The total U. S. supply of feed grains and other concentrates for the 1953-54 season is estimated at 170.5 million tons, a little larger than in 1952-53, and the third largest on record. The total U. S. corn supply of 3,940 million bushels for 1953-54 is second only to the record of 4,052 million in 1949-50 and 11 percent above the 1946-50 average.